

Nov. 21 / Administration of George W. Bush, 2001

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:48 p.m. at the parade grounds. In his remarks, he referred to Maj. Gen. Richard A. Cody, USA, commanding general, and Command Sgt. Maj. Clifford R. West, USA, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) and Fort Campbell; Gen. Larry R. Ellis, commanding general,

U.S. Army Forces Command; and rescued humanitarian aid workers Heather Mercer and Dayna Curry of the United States, Peter Bunch and Diana Thomas of Australia, and George Taubmann, Margrit Stebnar, Kati Jelinek, and Silke Duerrkopf of Germany.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on the National Emergency With Respect to Burma *November 21, 2001*

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Burma that was

declared in Executive Order 13047 of May 20, 1997.

Sincerely,

GEORGE W. BUSH

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate.

The President's Radio Address *November 24, 2001*

Good morning. Thanksgiving this year comes 72 days after a terrible national shock, an act of evil that caused, and continues to cause, so much suffering. Yet, the evil the terrorists intended has resulted in good they never expected. And this holiday season, Americans have much to be thankful for.

We're thankful for the character of our fellow citizens who are flying flags and donating to charity and comforting those who grieve. Americans have aided the families of victims and the starving children of Afghanistan, half a world away. This country has a good and generous heart.

We're thankful for the decency of the American people who have stood for the American tradition of tolerance and reli-

gious liberty, a tradition that has welcomed and protected generations of immigrants from every faith and background.

We are thankful for new heroes, police officers and firefighters and emergency workers, who have renewed our respect for public service and provided lasting lessons in courage.

We're thankful for the men and women of our military, who are defending our lives and liberty with such skill, honor, and success.

We're thankful, this year even more intensely, for our lives and our families and the love of those around us. Americans are remembering what really matters—holding our children more closely, giving them more time.

And we're thankful to God, who turned suffering into strength and grief into grace. Offering thanks in the midst of tragedy is an American tradition, perhaps because in times of testing, our dependence on God is so clear.

The Pilgrims gave thanks even after the many deaths of a bitter winter. Abraham Lincoln proclaimed days of national thanksgiving even during a bloody Civil War. Lincoln asked God to heal the wounds of the Nation and to restore it, as soon as it may be consistent with the divine purposes, to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility. We pray for this goal, and we work for it.

In America, blessings are meant to be shared, and our Thanksgiving is revealed in concern for others. At this season, Laura and I hope you'll find ways to reach out and share your blessings and talents in your own communities: Tutor or mentor a child; volunteer in a hospital; support our troops by becoming active in the USO; comfort those who feel afraid; show your kindness

to a Muslim neighbor; help someone in need of shelter or food or words of hope; and continue to pray for America.

We will face difficult times ahead. The fight we have begun will not be quickly or easily finished. Our enemies hide and plot in many nations. They are devious and ruthless. Yet we are confident in the justice of our cause. We will fight for as long as it takes, and we will prevail.

May God grant us patience, resolve, and wisdom in all that is to come. Happy Thanksgiving, and thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 9:50 a.m. on November 21 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on November 24. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 23 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of the address. The Thanksgiving Day proclamation of November 16 is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

Remarks at a Welcoming Ceremony for Humanitarian Aid Workers Rescued From Afghanistan and an Exchange With Reporters *November 26, 2001*

The President. Good morning. I'm so honored to welcome two courageous souls to the Rose Garden to celebrate a story of joy and a story of hope, a story of two women who were rescued, a story about the faith that sustained them and a family that clearly loves them.

Heather Mercer and Dayna Curry decided to go to help people who needed help. Their faith led them to Afghanistan. One woman who knows them best put it this way: They had a calling to serve the poorest of the poor, and Afghanistan is where that calling took them.

And Heather and Dayna's faith in God sustained them throughout their ordeal. It's

a wonderful story about prayer, about a faith that can sustain people in good times and in bad times. Their faith was a source of hope that kept them from becoming discouraged.

I talked to them right after their release, their freedom, and I sensed no bitterness in their voice, no fatigue, just joy. It was an uplifting experience for me to talk to these courageous souls.

Theirs is also a story about people who—in our country—who rallied for them. People prayed all around the country. I was particularly struck by the fact that Heather's dad offered to take her place in prison. I was struck by the fact that a country